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|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Interview Summary</b> | Application No.        | Applicant(s)       |
|                          | 09/957,032             | SHIMIZU, MASAYOSHI |
|                          | Examiner<br>Wes Tucker | Art Unit<br>2624   |

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Wes Tucker (3) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Randy Beckers Reg. No. 30,358 (4) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview: 26 February 2008.

Type: a) Telephonic b) Video Conference  
c) Personal [copy given to: 1) applicant 2) applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes e) No.  
If Yes, brief description: \_\_\_\_\_

Claim(s) discussed: 1.

Identification of prior art discussed: U.S. Patent 5,581,370 to Fuss.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g) was not reached. h) N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

MATTHEW C. BELLA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant clarified the language of the independent claim 1, specifically the limitation of dividing the image according to tone level with reference to Figure 6 in the specification. Applicant's discussion of the distinguishing method of dividing the sub-areas was helpful in clarifying the scope of the claimed invention and preliminarily appears to overcome the reference to Fuss. Further search and consideration will be required. Examiner suggested amending the claim to further distinguish over the cited prior art of Fuss by adding limitations to describe the way in which the sub-areas are divided, such as according to uniform tone areas or areas of certina ranges of tone.